

FLOOD-SWEPT DAYTON RAVAGED BY FIRE; 12,000 FACE DEATH BY FLAMES OR WATER

TOLL OF DEATH BIG IN DAYTON; MANY DYING

Messenger From Stricken City Tells First Real Story of Horror—Fire Adds to Terror.

How Torrent Broke Into Dayton

The breaking of the banks of the Loraine reservoir in Shelby county yesterday morning sent a wall of water roaring some hundred miles down the Great Miami and Mad rivers. The impact against the levees at Dayton was terrific, and that in North Dayton was first to give way.

That breach in the dike gave the waters greater power, and at 8 o'clock last night the levee at Main street bridge broke. The river roared through and inundated a huge zone in the heart of the city a mile and a half wide.

The Main street bridge, of concrete, was swept away like paper, and the Fifth street bridge (steel) was lifted from its abutments and jammed against a railroad bridge downstream. Dynamiting brought little relief. The break in the levee is fifteen feet wide, and the depth of water ranges from six to thirty feet. Hundreds of houses were swept off their moorings, and it is estimated that 30,000 are homeless.

DAYTON, Ohio, March 26.—(By messenger to Lebanon, Ohio)—Dayton today is a city of the dead, the dying, the homeless, and the grief-stricken. Its tragic story will not be known until the last body has been taken from the flood that covers half the city and the last charred body from the ruins of the fire that is spreading unchecked through the southern section.

The whole story never will be told—the heroism of men; the martyrdom of women; the mad hysteria that seized some and caused them to jump into the flood and death; the torture of despair that gripped those who, imprisoned in their homes by the water, waited in vain for help until the advancing flames came and destroyed them.

Shoots Suffering Family.

A man marooned with his family on the roof of his home shot and killed his wife and three children and then himself rather than to suffer death in the flames, according to a report received by J. J. Munsell, employment superintendent of the National Cash Register Company, from a man who actually saw the occurrence. The bodies floated away on the floods.

There may be a hundred dead or a thousand. The census of the dead cannot be taken until the water recedes and leaves its prey behind.

A big sturdy man is crying like a child here at the offices of the National Cash Register Company, where nearly 1,000 homeless flood victims are sheltered. He has been to the hospitals, the schools, where refugees are housed, to the churches—at none of these is his family.

Money Loss Is Great.

The money loss is heavy, but nobody cares about about money loss, though it runs into the millions.

Dayton, once prosperous, proud, and wealthy, today found that money is the most useless thing in the world in this hour of disaster.

Dayton doesn't want money. It asks for food, for clothing, for nurses, for doctors, and for medicine.

"Don't send us money, we can't use it," said J. C. Hale, of the National Cash Register Company, who is in charge of the relief work.

This dispatch is written at a place a mile from the center of the flood zone, which is the center of the city, where the banks, the skyscrapers, the hotels, and the department stores are located.

Between the city and safety there is a whirlpool. Only a mile intervenes, but it might be one thousand miles or five thousand, for no word of what happened beyond the whirl-

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By UNITED PRESS.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 26.—At 6 P. M., Wire Chief Bell, at Dayton, telephoned Governor Cox the fire in the flooded Dayton business section was then working northward. The water is receding, so that it is possible to wade in that section. He said it is probable that nearly all the ten thousand persons marooned in the business blocks will escape.

The block containing the Fourth National Bank and the Adams & Co. plant is burning.

The Beckel Hotel is burning. Other fires are breaking out in the business districts.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 26.—Governor Cox at 5:30 p. m. received telephone word from Chief Operator John A. Bell, at the Bell telephone exchange in Dayton, that the fire raging in the flooded business section has leaped across Third street and was sweeping the next block.

The governor received word via Springfield that 10,000 to 12,000 persons were in the burning buildings fighting the fire by water lifted in buckets from the flood.

Three carloads of boats on a special train from Springfield passed Xenia safely at 3:30 p. m., and were due in Dayton at 6. Cox notified Bell directly and he shoved the word across the flooded street to the men at the Y. M. C. A., trying to direct flood operations. They set out in

two rowboats to meet the train and pilot the rescue boats to the fire scene.

Cox received word via Springfield from Edward Hanley, public utility magnate, that he estimated the loss of life at not more than 3,000.

The Beckel Hotel at Dayton caught fire at noon and it was only by a hardfight, with the aid of chemical extinguishers and the flood water that the employees and guests managed to conquer the flames.

The governor's office was thronged with Dayton men waiting for word from the families.

One frantic Dayton man offered \$10,000 at the Union Depot in Columbus to be transported to Dayton. He said the money was all he would be able to raise, but that it was worth that to him to hear from his family.

ONLY ONE TRAIN IS HERE FROM WEST

Cleveland Flyer, Skirting Flood District, Arrives at Station Six Hours Late.

There are no Western trains running into Washington today. The city is not linked by rail with the stricken section of mid-Ohio, for no train has succeeded in fighting its way into Pittsburgh from the West.

There is only one exception to this fact—the Cleveland flyer, skirting the northern edge of the flood district, limped into Union Station, six hours late, at 1:50 o'clock this afternoon. It found heavy going in the Mahoning valley, just north of Pittsburgh, and is the sole link of communication between the seaboard and the middle West today.

"No report" is the sign hanging out on the Union Station bulletin board regarding the 12:15, the 12:35 and the 8:35 Pennsylvania trains en route from Chicago. None of these trains is within striking distance of Pittsburgh, and the dispatcher's office asserts it is entirely without information as to where they are stalled.

The Chesapeake and Ohio train from Chicago and other Western points, due at 12:15 o'clock, arrived at Union Station at 2:30 o'clock. This train luckily made its way through southern Indiana without being seriously impeded by the floods.

The lack of train service in the stricken district, emphasized by the paralysis of Western traffic at the Union Station, makes the work of relief difficult, if not impossible. Information received at the Postoffice Department indicates that no trains are now running in the region bounded by Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, Cincinnati, Terre Haute, and the Ohio river. Bridges have been washed out in many places and in others water is flowing many feet above the tracks. It is expected to be days, if not weeks, before passenger traffic is restored to its normal condition.

Lewis and Sherman Elected in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 26.—Col. James Hamilton Lewis, Democrat, and Lawrence V. Sherman, Republican, were today elected to the two United States Senate seats from this State. The election was accomplished by a combination of Democrats and Republicans, seventy Democrats and sixty Republicans, pledging themselves to vote for Lewis for the long term and Sherman for the short term.

Proposes Conciliation of Democratic Factions

Hugh C. Todd, national committee-man from Washington, proposes a reconciliation of Democratic factions through an agreement that men shall be picked for positions without reference to their political affiliations.

The plan has been laid before President Wilson, and has been well received. It is expected that the several divisions would immediately resume their wrangling.

Latest Flood Bulletins Show Thousand Perished

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 26.—Governor Cox received the following message this afternoon from John A. Bell, chief operator of the Bell telephone exchange in Dayton:

"The Russell apartments on West Third street and Boulevard are on fire and people are jumping into the water.

"The rear end of the steel high school caved in; Bauman's bakery burned down. About 200 people are dead in Riverdale and North Dayton.

"The loss of life is now growing and may reach 1,000."

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SIDNEY, Ohio, March 26.—Between 100 and 500 drowned, is the flood's toll in Piqua, according to unconfirmed dispatches received here this afternoon.

SOUTH BEND, Ind., March 26.—"We have positive information from Peru at 1 o'clock this afternoon that the death list will reach 300," said T. Bond, local manager of the Bell Telephone Company here this afternoon.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 26.—A woman and five children were drowned today in the Shenango river at Sharon. One man was drowned today at Franklin, Pa.

COMMITTEE WORKS ON INCOME TAX BILL

Graduated Assessment Plan Is Likely To Be Approved By Ways and Means Body.

Members of the Ways and Means Committee are struggling this afternoon over the details of the income tax bill, which will be a rider upon the Underwood tariff bill. The committee probably will vote today upon a half dozen rates proposed, the indications being that a graduated tax will receive the approval of the committee. Many Democrats fear that a flat rate will prove a boomerang, the popular idea being that the impost should be shaded in accordance with a small or swollen income. An exemption of \$3,500 or \$4,000 is now considered likely and the tax may range from 1 to 2 per cent. The income tax bill covers twenty-eight typewritten pages and while its contents has not been made public it is understood that it provides elaborate machinery for the collection of a new tax under which the Democrats hope to raise from \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000 revenue.

HEIRS COMPROMISE BARRY WILL CASE

Satisfactory Arrangements Are Made By Relatives With Inheriting Priest.

A compromise verdict was returned by a jury before Justice Gould in Probate Court today in the contest of the will of Miss Margaret Barry, who left the bulk of her \$45,000 estate to the Rev. J. M. O'Brien for the benefit of a parochial school of St. Peter's Church. The will of Miss Barry was sustained by the jury, but through an agreement with the litigants, the legacies of \$50 each left to George Barry, a nephew, and three nieces, Mary O'Connor, Ellen Milnebury, and Mary Barry, are increased to a satisfactory extent. Other bequests in the will are \$200 each to St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum and St. Ann's Infant Asylum, and \$200 each to the Little Sisters of the Poor and St. Vincent de Paul's Society. A suit involving real estate worth \$25,000 transferred by Miss Barry to Father O'Brien before her death will be dismissed under the terms of the compromise. Attorney George P. Hoover appeared for the caveators, and Attorneys O'Donnoghue, McKenney, Flannery and Hitt represented the other litigants.

MORE THAN HUNDRED ARE KILLED IN INDIANA

Some Estimates Place Loss of Life at Thousand, and Property Damage in Millions.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 26.—Paralyzed by a tie-up of industry and transportation, with heavy loss of life reported from several cities and property damage estimated in the millions, Indiana today suffered from the worst flood in its history. The loss of life in the State will be more than 100. Some estimates are 1,000.

Peru was the worst sufferer. The village of Brookville, in the southeastern part of the State, was wiped out, but communication was cut off and it is impossible to learn how many were drowned.

The entire Wabash valley is a desolate scene, its scores of prosperous cities absolutely paralyzed and cut off from the outer world. The loss of life along the whole length of the river will be very large, it is feared. Wires are down everywhere, trains are not running and roads have been obliterated so that confirmation of the wild rumors is impossible.

Floods Still Rising. Rain is still general over the State after sixty hours of steady downpour, and the flood has not reached its crest. Appeals for State aid have reached Governor Ralston from Peru and Brookville. Relief measures have been undertaken.

Indianapolis has suffered \$25,000,000 property loss already, and the destruction is growing worse. Two bridges valued at half a million dollars were washed away. Ten thousand houses are flooded.

The homeless are being cared for by friends and relatives, and in public buildings. State troops are on duty on the limits of the damaged area. The finest residential section of the city is flooded. It was thought to be immune from high water.

Big Loss of Life Feared.

Fearful shrieks in the dark when the West Washington bridge gave way, letting in a high torrent on a residential section gave rise to the belief that many persons perished.

At Broad Ripple, a suburb, where the White river flood is at its worst, a thousand families were roused at 2 o'clock this morning to escape the oncoming waters.

Nurse and Wife Given Legacies Under Wills

The will of John A. Griesbauer, dated March 18, 1911, leaves his entire estate to his wife, Annie M. Griesbauer. The entire estate of Joseph C. Rumsey is left to his wife, Margaret F. Rumsey, by the terms of his will, dated December 21, 1908.

Mrs. Catherine F. Manchester leaves \$250 to the nurse who attended her in her last sickness, and the residue of her estate to her brother, Edmund B. Myer. Her will is dated March 3, 1913.

\$2.50—Philadelphia and Return.

OHIO, INDIANA, PENNSYLVANIA ARE HARD HIT

Fatalities Reported in Score of Towns—Houses and Bridges Washed Away. Troops Go to Aid.

Summary of Flood Damage

OHIO: Miami river valley flooded, inundating Dayton, Piqua, Troy, Sidney, Mansfield, Hamilton and a dozen smaller towns. Many dead in Dayton. Mad river valley—West Liberty and Springfield flooded. Scioto river overflowed, inundating part of Columbus. Delaware, on the Olentangy river, flooded, twenty-five reported dead and 400 homeless. Lima flooded by Ottawa river. Zanesville—Muskingum river flooding city; 2,000 already homeless; Sixth street bridge swept away.

INDIANA: Peru—Twenty reported dead. Indianapolis flooded by White river; 10,000 homes inundated. Fort Wayne flooded; all lights gone; water famine threatened. Marion, Ellettsburg, Broad Ripple, La Fayette, Rushville, Muncie, and Noblesville partly under water. Richmond—Twenty bridges torn down, many homeless. Kokomo flooded by White Cat creek; 1,500 homeless. Shelbyville flooded. Logansport city isolated; houses washed away. Terre Haute—Wabash flooding residential section.

Forty Are Drowned When Levee Bank Gives Way

CONNORSVILLE, Ind., March 26.—Forty or more persons were drowned in Brookville, Franklin county, according to authentic information received here today. The bank which protects the city where two forks of the White river meet, broke Monday night. Twelve houses just back of the levee were crushed by the wall of water and the inhabitants undoubtedly perished.

Flood Kills Fifty In Tiffin

TIFFIN, Ohio, March 26.—Fifty are reported dead here in the worst flood in the history of the city. Chief of Police Myers and Mayor Kaeppl are missing and thought to be drowned. Every bridge is down and water seven feet deep in the streets.

Slowly receding waters in middle-western Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania this afternoon disclose a heavy loss of life and property losses of many millions in a score of cities. The death list cannot yet be estimated, but that it will run into the hundreds seems certain.

Wild estimates place the number of dead at anywhere from 500 to 6,000, but as fragmentary facts filter out of the devastated areas over crippled wires, it is believed that these cannot be true.

Conservative statements place the fatalities at Dayton, Ohio, at a little more than 100.

At Delaware, Ohio, it is thought that nineteen were killed.

Greatest Flood in Years.

The gigantic floods appear to have surpassed all records of recent years in the scope of their destructiveness. That 500,000 persons have been rendered homeless and property damaged to the extent of half a billion dollars appears certain.

In Ohio the Miami river valley, including the towns of Dayton, Hamilton, and Piqua, is an eighty mile long strip of devastation.

The Wabash river, bursting its banks at Peru, Ind., has brought havoc upon town after town throughout its

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